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A true battle buddy: Griffin takes hard right over easy wrong

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KATTERBACH, Germany – Pfc. Erin Jones knew there was something wrong with her battle buddy. He was displaying signs of hopelessness and despair and generally acting out of character. Jones knew he needed help – now.

Jones, an ammunitions specialist with E Company, 3-159th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, knew exactly what to do. She started notifying her superiors. At first, not everybody reacted with the sense of urgency Jones felt the situation required, but she persisted until her battle buddy was in safe hands.

“The training I’ve had in the Army definitely made me more aware of looking out for my buddies,” Jones said. The Longview, Texas, native said she’d known her friend since their Advanced Individual Training at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and she recognized immediately that he was behaving unusually.

For her vigilance, Jones was presented with an Army Achievement Medal by Col. Van. J. Voorhees, Jr., and Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Clowser, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade commander and command sergeant major, respectively, during a ceremony held July 11 at Storck Barracks.

“Pfc. Jones is accepting this award not only for her actions, but also on behalf of an entire company that is doing the right thing by looking out for each other,” Voorhees said.

“I would not be here today if I didn’t have people along the way who I could trust to lend a hand and guide me along the way. Issues don’t go away, regardless of your level. There’s nothing wrong with reaching out,” Voorhees added.